

HISTORIC FLAT ROCK SCENIC BYWAY

The Historic Flat Rock Scenic Byway consists of several roads in the Flat Rock community. The main road, U.S. 25, runs north and south through Flat Rock. The second road, Little River Road (S.R. 1123), proceeds west four miles from U.S. 25. The third road is Rutledge Drive (S.R. 1164), which runs west from U.S. 25 one mile to Kanuga Road (S.R. 1127).

The community of Flat Rock is named for a large expanse of granite once used as a meeting and ceremony site by the Cherokee. The village was also a popular haven for affluent Charlestonians, Europeans and plantation owners. These visitors left evidence of their stays in the many beautiful historic homes in town. History enthusiasts may be intrigued with the lineage of Southern aristocracy found among the tombstones in the St. John in the Wilderness Episcopal Church Cemetery.

From Hendersonville, the Henderson County seat, take U.S. 25 South to Highland Lake Road (S.R. 1783), where the byway begins. One road further, turn right onto Rutledge Drive and drive slowly through one of Flat Rock's residential areas. This route highlights a

historic mountain neighborhood with unique architecture. **At Kanuga Road, turn around and backtrack to U.S. 25 to continue following the byway.**

After turning right onto U.S. 25, look immediately to the right to see the St. John in the Wilderness gothic revival church. Built in 1836, it is considered the oldest Episcopal church in Western North Carolina. Numerous people have worshipped there, from wealthy and politically influential landowners to slaves. One-half mile further is "the great



St. John in the Wilderness Episcopal Church Cemetery

flat rock." This local landmark was frequently used as a meeting place for pioneers and merchants. It is now a meeting place for the Flat Rock Playhouse. Called the "State Theater of North Carolina," the playhouse is considered to have one of the best "summer series" productions in the country.

At this point, motorists may follow Little River Road to the right or continue along U.S. 25. Following U.S. 25 just beyond the Playhouse entrance, the Old Flat Rock Post Office, established in 1839, is on the left. Next is Blue Ridge Road (S.R. 1812), which leads to the community of East Flat Rock and the area's